

What is claimed is:

1. An extended release dosage form comprising:
  - a) a polymer-clay nanocomposite having exfoliated clay platelets dispersed in a polymer matrix; and
  - 5 c) an active ingredient, which is contained within said polymer-clay nanocomposite.
- 10 2. The extended release dosage form according to claim 1 wherein said polymer-clay nanocomposite comprises from 10 to 40 weight % of said exfoliated clay platelets, based on weight of said polymer-clay nanocomposite.
- 15 3. A method of releasing an active ingredient, comprising the steps of:
  - a) providing an extended release dosage form comprising:
    - i) a polymer-clay nanocomposite having exfoliated clay platelets dispersed in a polymer matrix and
    - ii) said active ingredient, which is contained within said polymer-clay nanocomposite; and
  - b) releasing or allowing to be released said active ingredient from said extended release dosage form.
- 20 4. The method according to claim 3 wherein said polymer-clay nanocomposite comprises from 10 to 40 weight % of said exfoliated clay platelets, based on weight of said polymer-clay nanocomposite.
- 25 5. An extended release polymeric dispenser comprising: a polymer-clay nanocomposite layer encapsulating a reservoir of an active ingredient; wherein said polymer-clay nanocomposite layer has exfoliated clay platelets dispersed within a polymer matrix.
- 30 6. The extended release polymeric dispenser according to claim 5 wherein said polymer-clay nanocomposite layer comprises from 10 to 40 weight % of said

exfoliated clay platelets, based on weight of said polymer-clay nanocomposite layer.

7. A method of releasing an active ingredient, comprising the steps of:

- 5    a) providing an extended release polymeric dispenser comprising a polymer-clay nanocomposite layer encapsulating a reservoir of said active ingredient, wherein said polymer-clay nanocomposite layer has exfoliated clay platelets dispersed within a polymer matrix; and
- 10    b) releasing or allowing to be released said active ingredient from said extended release polymeric dispenser.

8. The method according to claim 7 wherein said polymer-clay nanocomposite layer comprises from 10 to 40 weight % of said exfoliated clay platelets, based on weight of said polymer-clay nanocomposite layer.